

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 CEA-01 BIB-01
/117 W

-----015090 150654Z /14

R 141610Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7613
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS NICOSIA 1006

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, CY, ECIN, ETRD, EAGR
SUBJECT: EC/CYPRUS ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT: HOT POTATO COOLS NICELY

1. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PRESS REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT
OF DETAILS OF EEC CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS CONTAINED PROTOCOL SIGNED IN BRUSSELS APRIL 7.
DURING TELEVISION INTERVIEW, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE DIRGEN
ELIADES, WHO LED GOC NEGOTIATING TEAM, DESCRIBED PROTOCOL
AS "LESS THAN FULLY SATISFACTORY". HE SAID GOC HAD
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EXPECTED GREATER CONCESSIONS AND HAD HOPED "COMMON
MARKET WOULD GIVE MORE CONSIDERATION TO THE SPECIAL
REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CYPRUS ECONOMY."

2. ELIADES NOTED THAT IF ONE COMPARES PRESENT REGIME
WITH ADVANTAGES CYPRUS EXPORTS ENJOYED IN BRITISH MARKET
PRIOR TO 1977, CYPRUS IS IN MUCH POSITION. HE

POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT ENDING OF SPECIAL STATUS IN UK MARKET WAS INEVITABLE AND HAS TO BE ACCEPTED AS SUCH. FINALLY HE DESCRIBED THE CONCESSIONS AS "BIGGER" THAN THOSE ENJOYED BY ANY OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRY.

3. WHAT CRITICISM THERE WAS OUT OF THE AGREEMENT CAME AS EXPECTED FROM THE FAR LEFT. IN A STATEMENT TO COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER "HARAGHI", CHAMBIS MICHAELIDES, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST CYPRIOT FARMERS UNION (EKA), CLAIMED THE AGREEMENT WILL REDUCE GENERAL LEVEL OF FARM INCOME. HE INSISTED THAT THE "CORRECT LINE", WHICH IS STILL SUPPORTED BY EKA, IS THAT CYPRUS SHOULD DISASSOCIATE FROM EEC UNTIL IT IS ABLE TO SIGN AN EQUITABLE TRADE AGREEMENT.

4. COMMENT: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS ARE RELIEVED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE FINALLY OVER AND GENERALLY SATISFIED WITH AGREEMENT. THEY CONSIDER IT NOT ONLY BUREAUCRATICALLY PALATABLE BUT ALSO DEFENSIBLE IN PARLIAMENT EVEN THOUGH IT IS LESS THAN THEY HOPED TO ACHIEVE. MINISTRY HAS ALREADY SET UP TASK FORCE TO PREPARE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WHEN PRESENT AGREEMENT ENDS DECEMBER 31, 1979. THIS REFLECTS FEELING THAT BETTER BARGAIN COULD HAVE BEEN STRUCK HAD GOC STARTED NEGOTIATIONS AND BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS EARLIER.
STONE

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NOTE BY OC/T: PARA. 2. AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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NNN

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